

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIG-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 SAJ-01 BIB-01 TRSE-00 /081 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:JKORNBLUM:LR  
APPROVED BY EUR/CE:DANDERSON  
EUR/SOV:DHERSPRING  
-----220050Z 005132 /71

P R 212333Z JAN 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY  
USMISSION USBERLIN PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 014310

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, GE, WB, US, UR, UK, FR, GW

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICER  
OF RECENT GDR MEASURES IN BERLIN

1. AT HIS REQUEST SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICER (POCH) CALLED  
ON EUR/CE OFFICER (KORNBLUM) ON JANUARY 21 FOR  
DISCUSSION OF RECENT GDR MEASURES IN BERLIN. POCH GAVE  
A STANDARD SOVIET DEFENSE OF GDR STEPS, ARGUING THAT  
EAST BERLIN WAS PART OF THE TERRITORY OF THE GDR  
AND THAT AS A SOVEREIGN STATE, EAST GERMANY COULD DO  
WHATEVER WAS NECESSARY TO PROTECT ITS INTERESTS IN  
THE CITY. HE ARGUED THAT IT WAS REALLY THE FRG WHICH  
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WAS CONSISTENTLY VIOLATING THE QA AND THAT IF THE WEST  
WISHED TO MAINTAIN THE BALANCE IN BERLIN, THEY SHOULD  
PUT A REIN ON WEST GERMAN ACTIVITIES THERE.

2. KORNBLUM NOTED THAT THE THREE POWERS HAD BEEN CAREFUL  
TO ASSURE THAT NO FRG ACTIVITY IN BERLIN VIOLATED  
EITHER THE BASIC FOUR POWER AGREEMENTS OR THE QA.

IN THIS REGARD, WE HAD A MUCH BETTER RECORD THAN DID THE SOVIETS, WHO HAD ALLOWED THE GDR TO DO MUCH MORE THAN WAS ACCEPTABLE UNDER THE SPECIAL STATUS OF THE CITY. KORNBLUM POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THE CONTESTING LEGAL POSITIONS OF THE TWO SIDES WERE WELL KNOWN AND THERE WAS NO SENSE DEBATING THEM. IN SIGNING THE QA IN 1971, BOTH SIDES HAD AGREED TO ATTEMPT PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS OF THE BASIS OF THE EXISTING FOUR POWER LEGAL STATUS OF BERLIN. THIS SPECIAL STATUS WAS THE BASIS FOR THE "BALANCE" WHICH THE SOVIETS SO OFTEN REFERRED TO IN THEIR STATEMENTS ON BERLIN. THERE WAS NO MOVE THE GDR COULD TAKE WHICH WOULD REMOVE THE FOUR POWER STATUS FOR BERLIN. ONLY THE FOUR POWERS THEMSELVES COULD DECIDE TO TAKE SUCH A STEP. BUT WITH ITS ACTIONS OF THE PAST WEEKS, THE GDR HAD AIMED A DIRECT ATTACK AT THE SPECIAL STATUS OF THE CITY. THIS HAD BEEN A DIRECT PROVOCATION TO THE WESTERN ALLIES AND WE HAD REACTED ACCORDINGLY WITH OUR PRESS STATEMENT IN BONN AND OUR PROTEST IN MOSCOW. THE GDR AND THE SOVIET UNION COULD NOT EXPECT THAT THE SITUATION WOULD CONTINUE TO IMPROVE IF THE GDR CONTINUED SUCH DIRECT ATTACKS ON THE BASIC STATUS OF THE CITY.

3. POCH NOTED THESE POINTS WITHOUT FURTHER COMMENT, EXCEPT TO AGREE THAT THE SITUATION IN BERLIN WAS "DELICATE" AND TO ARGUE THAT BOTH SIDES SHOULD ASSURE THAT THE BALANCE THERE WAS NOT DISTURBED. EUR/CE DIRECTOR ANDERSON MADE A SIMILAR PRESENTATION TO CONFIDENTIAL

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SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR ERESKOVSKY IN A CONVERSATION ON OTHER SUBJECTS LATER ON JANUARY 21. ERESKOVSKY MADE NO COMMENT OTHER THAN TO AGREE THAT THIS WAS NOT THE TIME FOR PROBLEMS IN BERLIN.

4. COMMENT: POCH'S REQUEST FOR A MEETING IS THE FIRST TIME IN RECENT MEMORY THAT THE SOVIET EMBASSY HAS ASKED EUR/CE FOR A DISCUSSION SPECIFICALLY ON BERLIN MATTERS. POCH'S TASK WAS CLEARLY TO DETERMINE THE US REACTION TO THE GDR MEASURES. HE MADE NO ATTEMPT TO COUNTER THE POINTS MADE.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BERLIN QUADRIPARTITE MATTERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1977STATE014310  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Message ID:** 1dcab7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DISCUSSION WITH SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICER OF RECENT GDR MEASURES IN BERLIN  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PGOV, GC, WB, US, UR, UK, FR, GE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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22 May 2009  
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